

**Montana Department of Military Affairs
Disaster & Emergency Services Division
State Emergency Coordination Center**

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Situation Report for August 16, 2003 (issued @ 14:00 hrs.)

Wildfires of 2003

Attention * - New information shown in today's report displayed in ***Bold Italics*** type.

I. Background Information:

On 8/07/03, Governor Judy Martz signed Executive Order # 16-03 in which she declared a statewide disaster thereby enabling mobilization of state resources (including the Montana National Guard) should they be needed to help protect the life, health and/or property of Montana's citizens. This declaration supplements Executive Order # 14-03, a statewide emergency declaration issued on 7/18/03. The State Emergency Coordination Center has been activated since 7/18/03.

II. Current Montana Fire Situation: (as reported to NRCG August 15, 2003 (2400)

A. Large Fires

Northern Rockies Preparedness Level = 5

National Preparedness Level = 5

- **93 East Area Command (Ribar) is managing the following fires:**
 - ***Boles Meadow – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hoff) – 3,450 acres, 25% contained, 25 miles NE of Missoula, 664 personnel assigned.***
 - ***Dirty Ike – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Chrisman) - 1,200 acres, 40% contained, 3 miles NE of Clinton, 250 personnel assigned.***
 - ***Cooney Ridge Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Sandman) - 7,230 acres, 5 % contained, 11 miles E of Florence, 462 personnel assigned.***
 - ***Gold 1 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Philbin) – 5,100 acres, 5% contained, 9 miles NE of Corvallis, 369 personnel assigned.***
 - ***Mineral/Primm – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Bennett) - 9,000 acres, 5% contained, 19 miles NE of Missoula.***
 - ***Strawberry Mountain – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Berndt) has been ordered, 500 acres, 55% contained, 27 miles SE of Missoula, 140 personnel assigned.***
 - ***Twin Lakes – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Paul) - 93 acres, 90% contained, 4 miles S of Georgetown Lake, 177 personnel assigned.***
- **93 West Area Command (Greenhoe) is managing the following fires:**
 - ***Fish Creek Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Benes) - 6,500 acres, 0% contained, 24 miles W of Missoula, 428 personnel assigned.***
 - ***Black Mountain 2 – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Dietrich) –1,114 acres, 5% contained, 9 miles W of Missoula, 385 personnel assigned.***
 - ***Cherry Creek – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Swope) – 4,000 acres, 30% contained, 12 miles SE of Thompson Falls, 409 personnel assigned.***
 - ***North Howard Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Kechter)– 2,267 acres, 30% contained, 16 miles W of Missoula, 322 personnel assigned.***
- ***East – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Gardner) – 8,000 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles E of Fishing Bridge Junction, Yellowstone National Park, 91 personnel assigned.***

- **Northwest Area Command (Mann) is managing the following large fires:**
 - **Crazy Horse – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Vail) - 7,900 acres 0% contained, 10 miles NE of St. Ignatius, 451 personnel assigned.**
 - **Robert – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Ferguson) – 42,011 acres, 45% contained, 8 miles N of Columbia Falls, 787 personnel assigned.**
 - **Wedge Canyon – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Hart) – 39,513 acres, 60% contained, 20 miles E of Eureka, 903 personnel assigned.**
 - **Trapper Creek Complex – Complex is 22,551 acres, 65% contained. This complex is located 45 miles NE of Kalispell, 25 personnel assigned.**
 - **Little Salmon Creek Complex – Fire Use Management Team (Rath). 19,000 acres, located 47 miles SE of Kalispell, 79 personnel assigned.**
- **Rough Draw Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Oltrogge) – 1,788 acres, 5% contained, 8 miles S of Livingston, 419 personnel assigned.**
- **Beaver Lake Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Frye) – 7,000 acres, 10% contained, 19 miles SW of Missoula.**
- **Winslow – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Blume) - 5,000 acres, 0% contained, 5 miles SW of Lakeview, 214 personnel assigned.**
- **Cathedral Peak – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Humphrey) has been ordered, 200 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles S of Nye, 12 personnel assigned.**
- **Windmill Complex – Type 2 Team Incident Management Team (Szczepanik) – 9,460 acres, 40% contained, 17 miles E of Hardin, 229 personnel assigned.**
- **Swain – 4,000 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles SE of Broadus, 31 personnel assigned.**
- **Buffalo Creek – 700 acres, 40% contained, 25 miles S of Broadus, 58 personnel assigned.**
- **Lincoln Complex – Type 1 Incident Management Team (Studebaker) has been ordered, 7,500 acres, 0% contained, 10 miles W of Lincoln, 63 personnel assigned.**
- **Burnt Ridge Complex – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Hendricks) has been ordered, 490 acres, 0% contained, 3.5 miles NW of Neihart, 75 personnel assigned.**
- **Sheep Complex – 150 acres, 0% contained, 28 miles N of Townsend. Type 2 Incident Management has been ordered.**
- **Hobble – Type 2 Incident Management Team (Larsen) – 33,650 acres, 100% contained, 6 miles E of Greycliff, 240 personnel assigned.**
- **Barefoot Creek – 175 acres, 66 miles SW of Missoula, Montana.**
- **Harrington Ridge – 100 acres, 65 miles SW of Darby.**

B. Initial Attack *Light initial attack – 22 new fires 35,998 acres*

C. State Forecast For Montana

RED FLAG WARNINGS: Late This Morning Through Tonight For Central And A Portion Of Southwest Montana (Fire Weather Zones 112 Through 133) For Isolated Dry Thunderstorms This Afternoon And Evening And For A Wind Shift Associated With A Cold Front Passage. Scattered Thunderstorms With Gusty Winds - Very High Fire Dangers - Very Low Humidities - Active Fires And Very High Haines Indices.

**State Forecast For Montana
National Weather Service Great Falls Mt
445 Am MT Sat Aug 16 2003**

WEST OF THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE

Today - Partly Cloudy. Isolated Morning Showers. Scattered Showers And Thunderstorms This Afternoon. Highs 81 To 91.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy. Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms Mainly Through The

Evening. Lows 45 To 55.

Sunday - Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Rain Showers. Highs 75 To 85.

CENTRAL MONTANA

Today - Partly Cloudy With Smoke. Isolated Showers And Thunderstorms - Mainly This Afternoon. Highs In The Lower 80s To Mid 90s.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy With Smoke. Slight Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms. Lows In The Lower 50s To Lower 60s.

Sunday - Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms. Highs In The Mid 70s To Mid 80s.

SOUTHWEST MONTANA

Today - Partly Cloudy With Smoke. Isolated Showers And Thunderstorms In The Morning Then Scattered Showers And Thunderstorms In The Afternoon. Highs In The Upper 70s To Upper 80s.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy With Smoke. Scattered Showers And Thunderstorms In The Evening Then Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms After Midnight. Lows In The Upper 40s To Mid 50s.

Sunday - Partly Cloudy. Slight Chance Of Showers And Thunderstorms. Highs In The Lower 70s To Lower 80s.

EASTERN AND SOUTHERN MONTANA

- Lake Wind Advisory Today And This Evening For Fort Peck Lake -

Today - Continued Hot. Mostly Sunny. A Chance Of Thunderstorms Southwest. Windy East. Highs 95 To 105.

Tonight - Partly Cloudy. A Chance Of Thunderstorms Southwest. Lows Will Range From The Upper 50s West To The Lower 70s East.

Sunday - Partly Cloudy. A Chance Of Thunderstorms. Highs Will Range From The Mid 80s West To Upper 90s East.

III. Summary of Actions being taken by Local Government Officials:

The following local jurisdictions have made the following declarations:

Cascade County	Emergency Declaration (Box Canyon/Long Mtn.)	7/15/03
Garfield County	Disaster Declaration (Missouri Breaks)	7/15/03
Beaverhead County	Emergency Resolution (multiple fires)	7/17/03
Ravalli County	Emergency Declaration (Big Creek)	7/20/03
Flathead County	Emergency Declaration (Wedge Canyon)	7/21/03
Sanders County	Resolution (Stage II Fire Restrictions)	7/29/03
Fallon County	Resolution (Stage I Fire Restrictions)	8/04/03
CSKT Flathead	Resolution (Tribal/Forest/Range Closure)	8/04/03
Blaine County	Emergency Declaration (150 acre fire)	8/06/03
Park County	Emergency Declaration (Rough Draw Fire)	8/11/03
Sweet Grass County	Disaster Declaration – (Hobble [Diamond] Fire)	8/12/03
Custer County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Musselshell County	Emergency Declaration	8/13/03
Granite County	Disaster Declaration	8/15/03

IV. - Summary of State Activities and Resources Committed:

State and National Guard Assistance:

Current National Guard Resources Assistance		
AIRCRAFT MODULES	EQUIPMENT	PERSONNEL
3 UH-160S	7 HMMVs	16 Soldiers to NW Area Cmd
	3 HEMTTs	13 Soldiers to SW Area Cmd
	1 1 ¼ TRAILER	16 Soldiers to Central MT
	4 M-35 2 ½ TON TRUCKS	23 Soldiers as Overhead Spt
	1 CONTACT TRUCK	
3 Aircraft Modules Assigned	16 HVY Equipment Assigned	68 Solders Assigned

Status of State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC)

- Montana DES is providing support to local governments through the State Emergency Coordination Center in Helena. The SECC is currently operating at Activation Level III. Level III operations will include a full staff 0700-1900 daily.
- Currently DES Agency Representatives are assigned to:
Missoula Area Command
Sweetgrass County (Hobble Fire)

The State Emergency Coordination Center (SECC) will continue to monitor conditions and is prepared to provide 24-hour incident support to local governments. After office hours (i.e., 1900-0700) support is available through the DES Duty Officer who may be reached at (406) 841-3911.

V. FEMA Grants:

FEMA Fire Management Assistance Grant have been approved for:

- Missouri Breaks Complex
- Wedge Canyon
- Robert
- Hobble
- Cherry Creek
- Fires burning in portions of Missoula, Ravalli and Mineral Counties

VI. Fire Restrictions, Closures and Evacuations:

For the latest fire restrictions:

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/nrcg/fireseason/2003/MTmain.htm>

For the latest closures and evacuations:

http://www.fs.fed.us/r1/fire/2003fires/evacuations_road_closures/closures_evacuations_81303_2100.pdf

VII. Additional Information:

- *A 48-year-old firefighter from Massachusetts died of natural causes on Friday at the Boles Meadow Fire Camp just north of Potomac. He was a career firefighter with 27 years of experience. He is survived by a wife and four children. Condolences are extended to his family, friends and co-workers.*